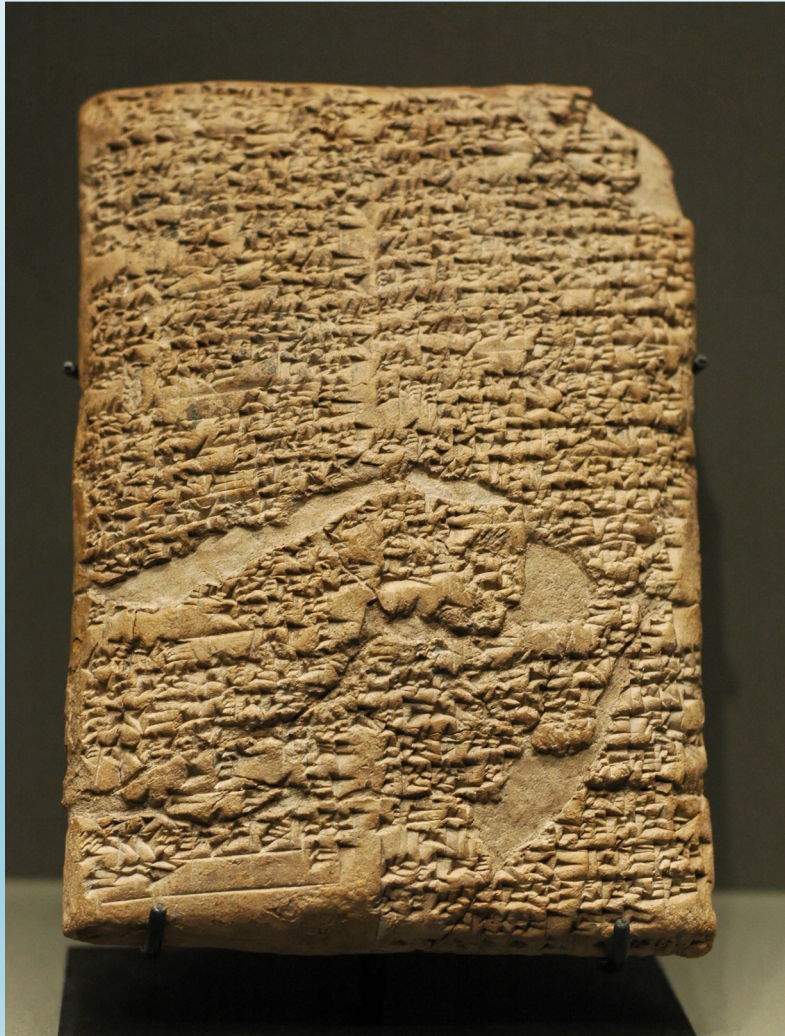


Step Two-Research Assignment

- Due September 27th
- Life Happens extension

Characteristics of First Civilizations



- Cities
- Writing
- Bureaucracies
- Surplus production
- Trade
- Inequality



WRITING



- Preservation of ideas and information
- Sharing of ideas
- Creation of a community of readings with common knowledge of texts passed on from one generation to next
- Accumulation of knowledge and expansion

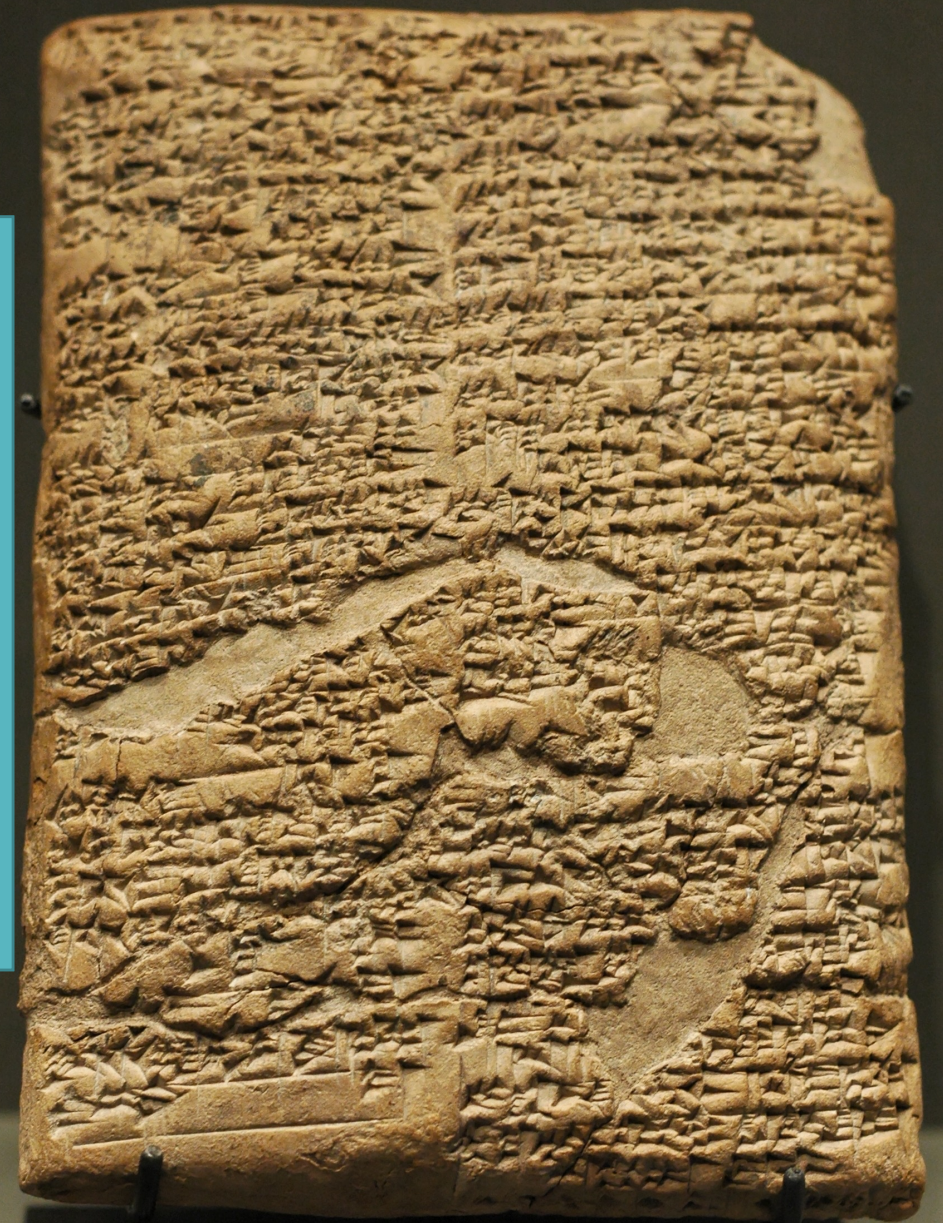
Clay Tablet,
1780 B.C.E.

Code of *Hammurabi*

- Hammurabi ruled 1792-1750 B.C.E.



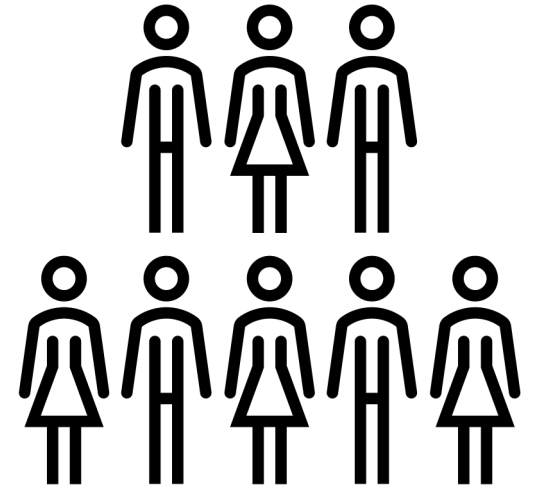
Stele, 1791-
1753 B.C.E.





Theory

Law



Reality?



Environment and First Complex Societies: Mesopotamia and Egypt





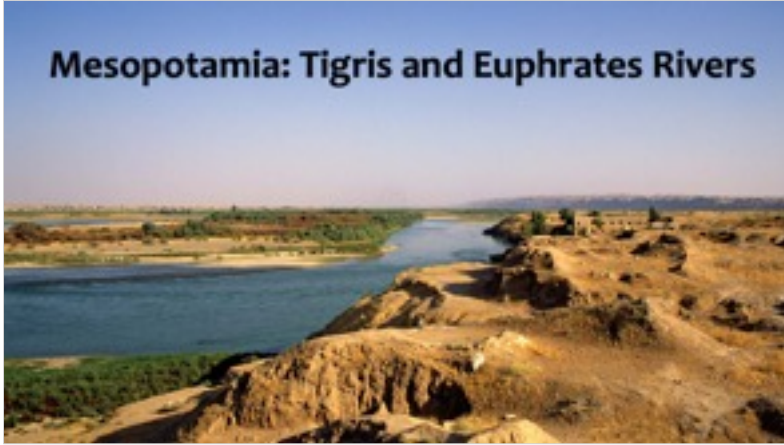
Why did so many of these civilizations develop in river valleys?



What influence did rivers have on the shaping of these societies?

Rivers and Ancient Civilizations

Mesopotamia: Tigris and Euphrates Rivers



Ancient Egypt: The Nile River



Huang He River, China

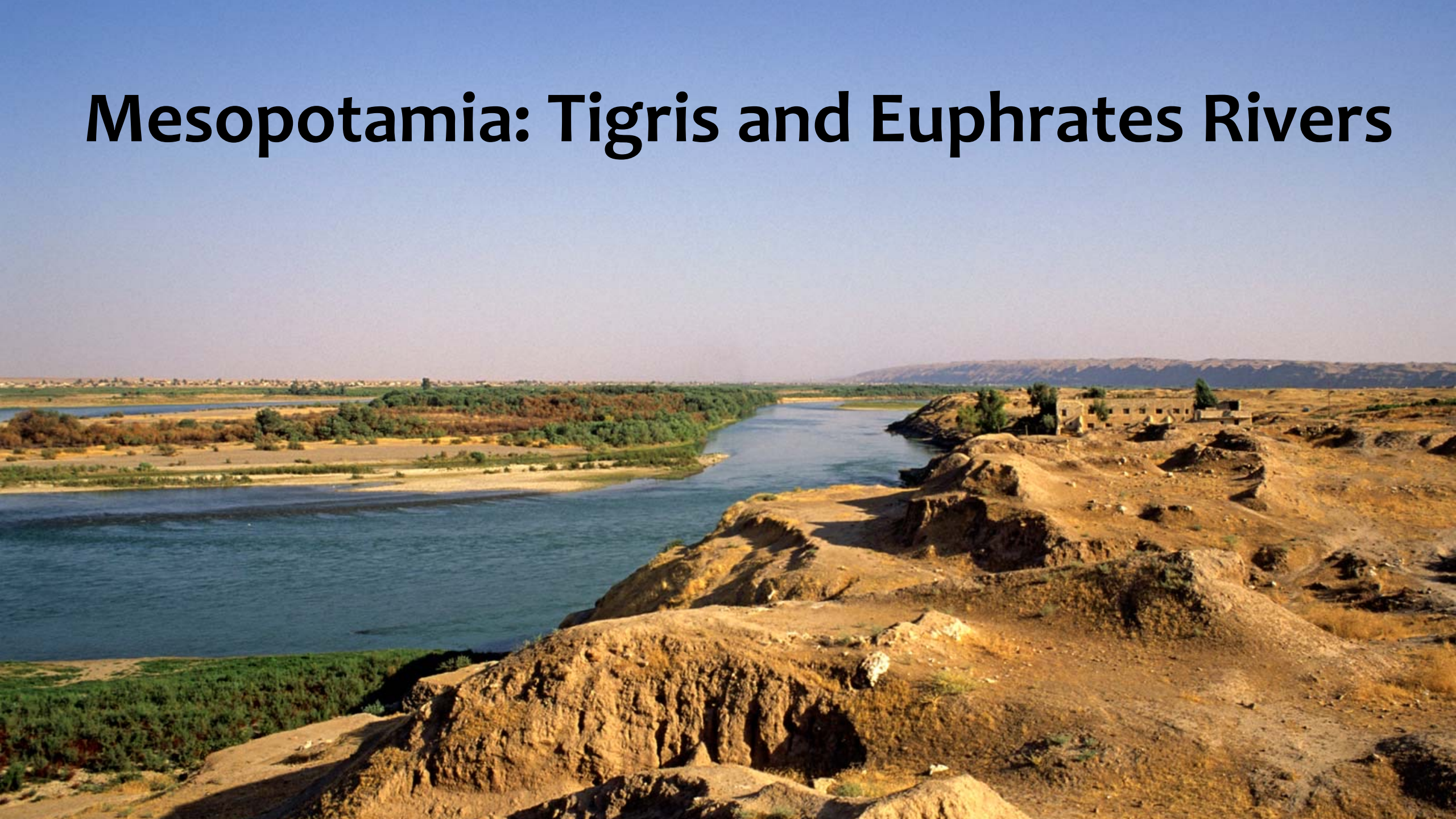


Ziggurat, Mesopotamia, 2100 B.C.E.



Environment and
Collapse of
Civilization

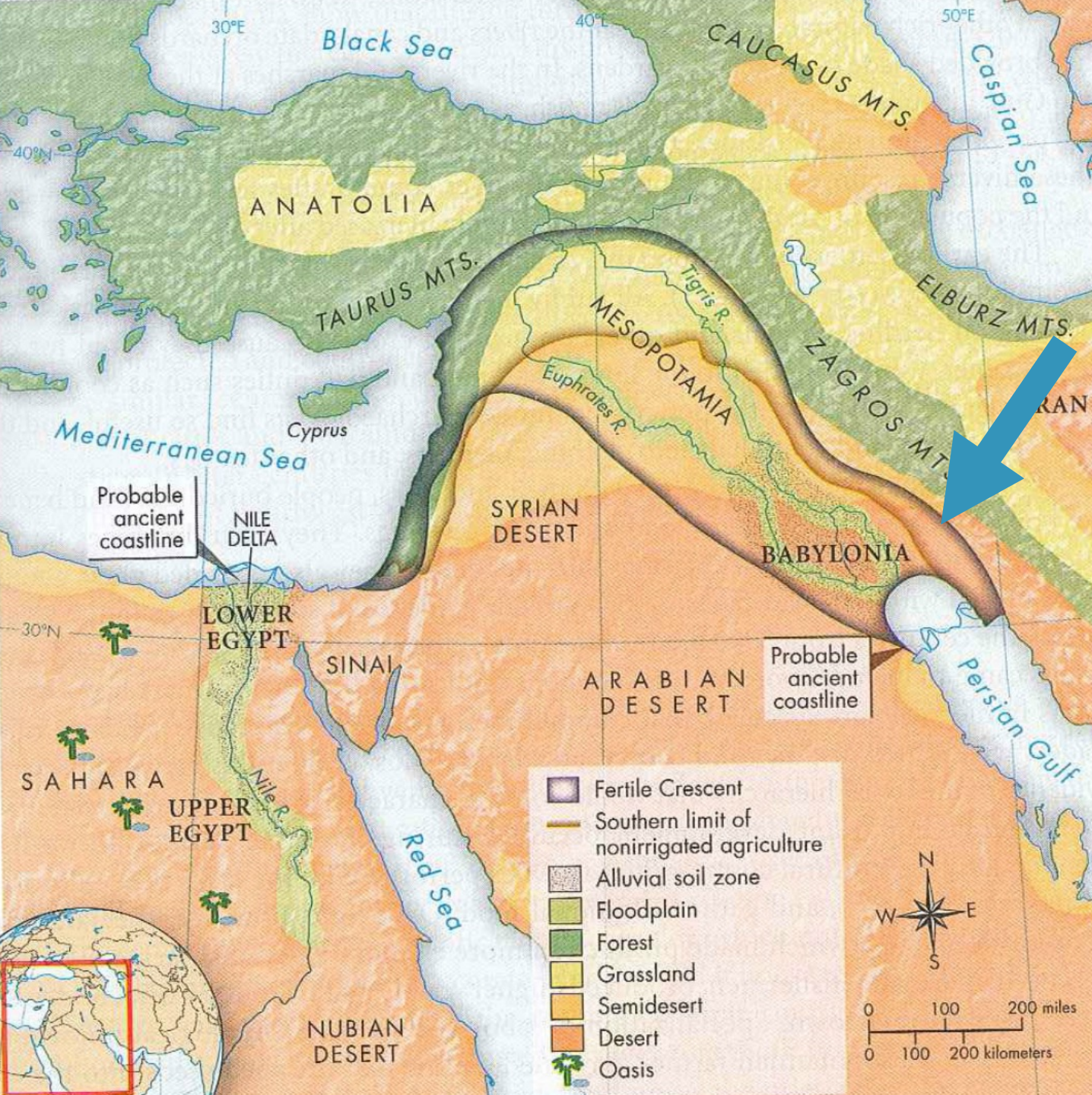
Mesopotamia: Tigris and Euphrates Rivers



3200 B.C.E.



Map 2.2 Mesopotamia
Chapter 2, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, Fourth Edition
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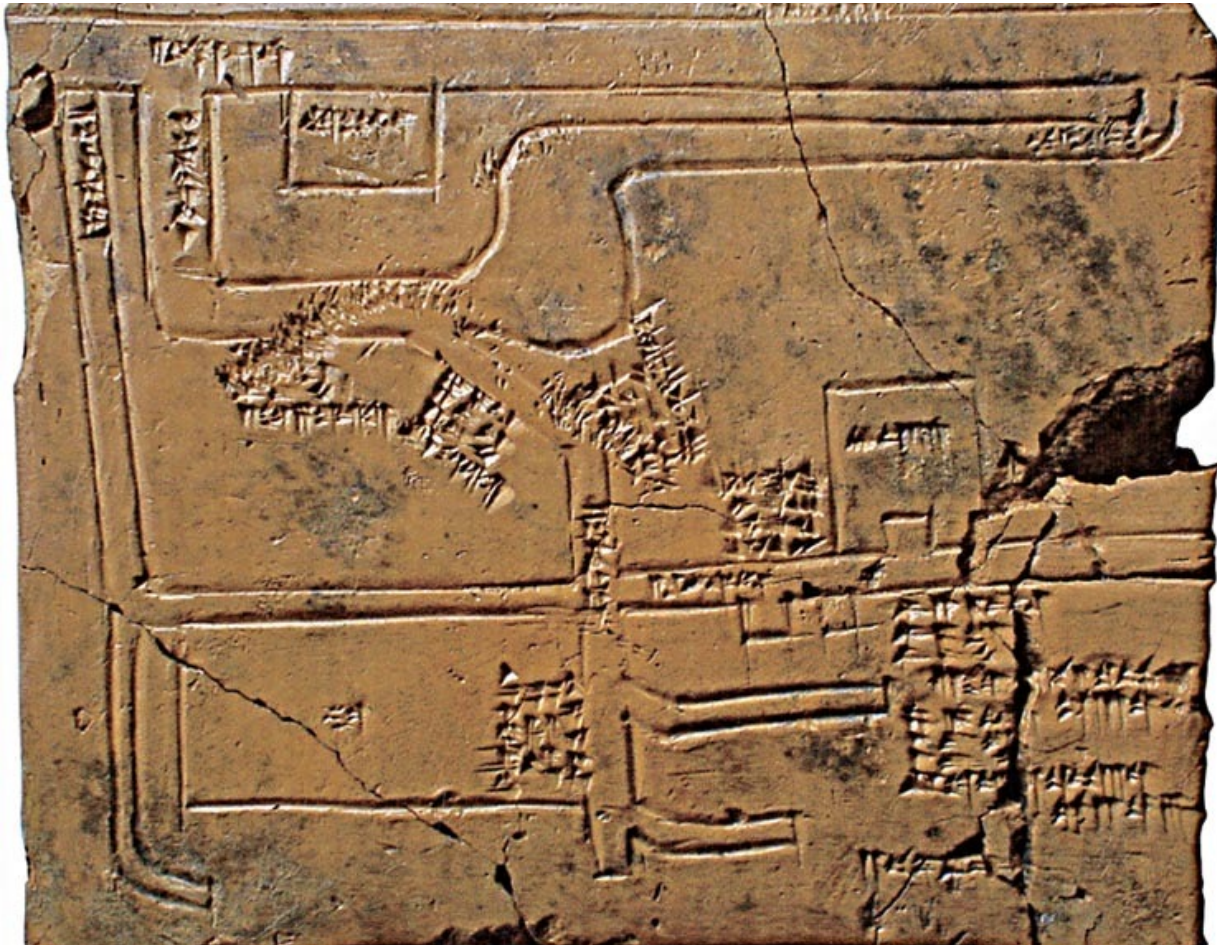


- Floodplain
- Grassland
- Semidesert
- Desert

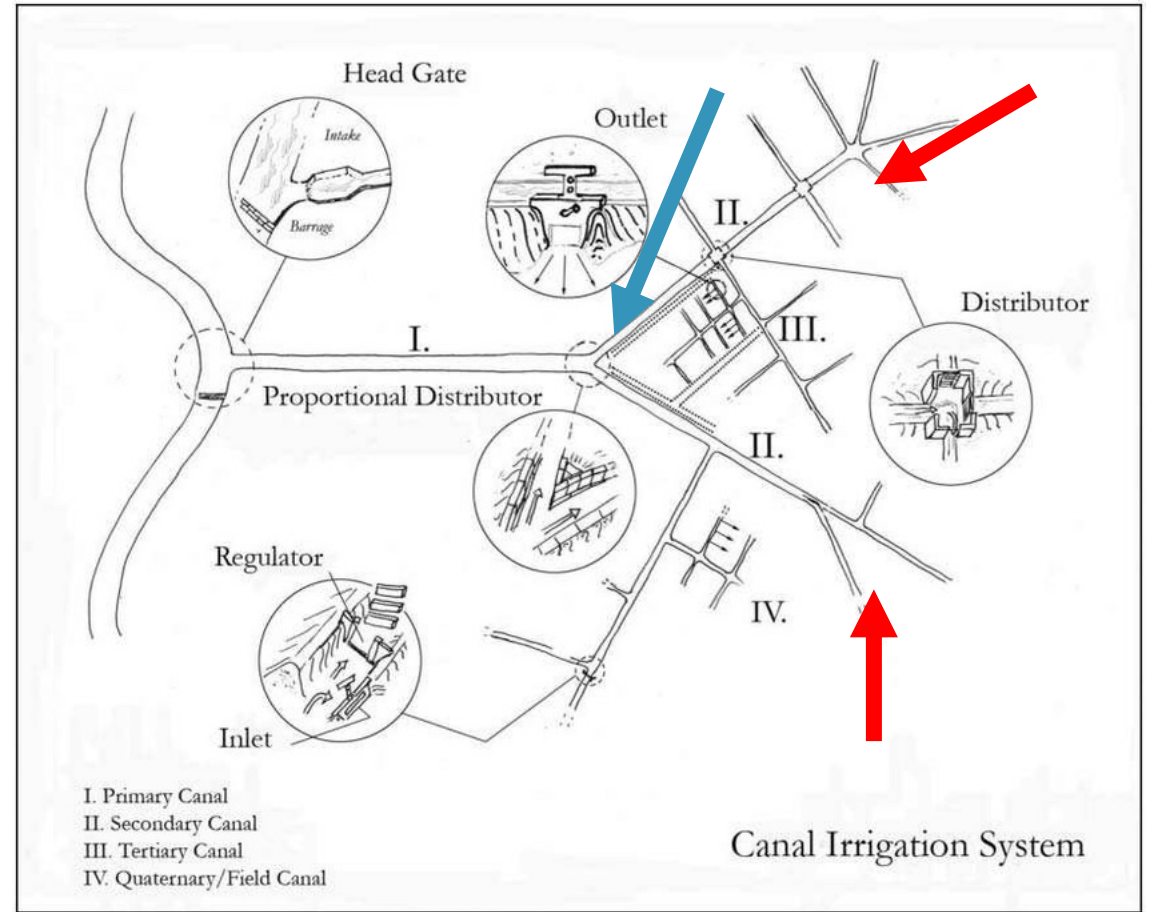




Irrigation, starting
around 5000 B.C.E.



Map of Canal System, Euphrates, 1684-1647 B.C.E.



Canal irrigation system from modern Iraq, based on traditional models

- Getting water to land that could be cultivated
- Keeping water where it was needed
- Disposing of water when no longer needed
- Keeping unwanted water away





Implications of irrigation

- More structured forms of government
- Labour specialization
- Greater inequality
 - Better land = better productivity
 - Greater control over irrigation?



Epic of Gilgamesh (2700 B.C.E)



Ancient Egypt: The Nile River



Nile River = 'Better' River

- Predictable flooding (August)
- Predictable receding (October)



Less complex forms of irrigation





Village life vs Pharaoh's court

Huang He River, China



Ziggurat, Mesopotamia, 2100 B.C.E.



Environment and Collapse of Civilization



Deforestation

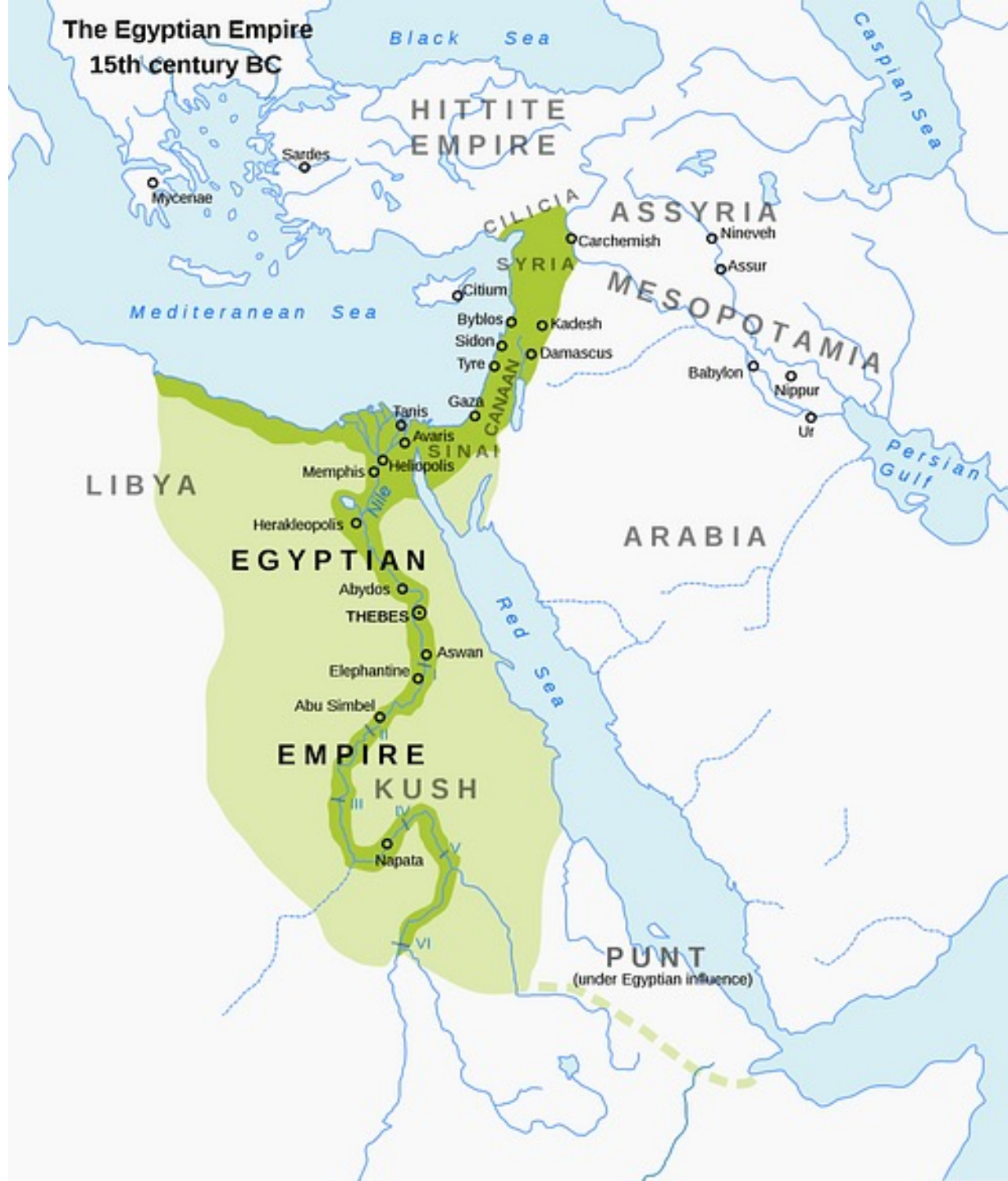


Soil Erosion



Salination of soil

1. Poor agricultural conditions
2. Rely on food from elsewhere
3. Vulnerable to attack
4. Collapse



Iraq today:
desertification and
salination of soil

